

Ticket to Work/Work Incentives Act
Medicaid Infrastructure Grant
Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes
August 27, 2003

The Ticket to Work/Work Incentives Improvement Act Medicaid Infrastructure Grant Advisory Group Meeting was called to order by Paul Gowins, Co-chair at 11:00, on Wednesday August 27, 2003 at the Fernley Library meeting room.

Members in Attendance

Nina Davenport, National Multiple Sclerosis Society
 Lisa Erquiaga, Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living/Fallon
 Robert "Red" Foster, General Public Northern Nevada
 Paul Gowins, Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living
 Terry Hardy, General Public Rural Northern Nevada
 William Heavilin, Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center
 Robin Renshaw, Nevada Parents Encouraging Parents/ South
 Robert Simola, Ormsby ARC
 Alyce Thomas, Nevada Division of Mental Health & Development Services

Members Not in Attendance

Kimberli Vare, Skill Builders of Nevada
 Tracy Dupree, Nevada State Welfare Division/North

Staff:

Connie Anderson, Chief of Medicaid and Nevada Check Up Services
 Harry Snoek, Social Services Program Specialist III TWWIA
 Jeanne Schrauth, Administrative Assistant II TWWIA

Others Present:

Loretta Wilson, Personal Attendant
 Shirley Hardy, Personal Attendant

I. Roll Call

Roll was called with each member giving a brief introduction. Paul Gowins called the meeting to order, a quorum was present and the meeting proceeded.

II. July Meeting Minutes Approval

The July minutes were approved as provided without any changes.

III. HIWA (Health Insurance for Work Advancement)

Harry Snoek, Program Coordinator spoke on the status of HIWA program development. There are some concerns about the recommendations made for the way employment related work expenses will be treated. From review of written materials, it appears that the recommendation made and presented previously reflect that employment related work expense deductions be based on actual expenses paid. Individuals, in the program might find it difficult to keep receipts and the possibility of having a receipt requirement may become a barrier to people applying for the program. It may also be considered a roadblock to applicants. It will greatly increase the time required to establish and maintain eligibility. A list of employment related work expenses was passed out to all Advisory Group members for discussion on how to lessen the HIWA program paperwork requirements and possible roadblocks for the applicants and recipients and the eligibility workers with regards to employment related work expenses.

Alyce Thomas brought up the idea of a fixed or flat figure. Harry Snoek agreed that type of deduction that would make it less work on the recipients than to have to save receipts. It would also be less work for the eligibility worker. Traditionally Federal programs such as Food Stamps have fixed figures for deductions except for things like child care, which typically have deductions set at a percentage of actual expenses. Some further discussion took place and, the Advisory Group, recommended a system that left a choice of either actual (save your receipts) or a standard deduction and choose one way or the other once per year at the time of redetermination. Harry will continue to do research as to what the standard (flat) deduction could be and will advise as to what he has found at the September meeting.

V. Staff Projects Status Update

a. Policy Development

Paul began the discussion with the request for something written down. He has been receiving request asking what the eligibility requirements are going to be for the program. He would like something that he can handout when he receives request. Once HIWA policies are developed, informational items suitable for distribution will also be developed.

As for eligibility, the age is still 16 to 64. Citizenship is still U.S. citizen or legal resident. If all deadlines are met, we will recommended accepting applications April 1, 2004 with eligible individuals approved effective July 1, 2004.

b. Section 1619 Outreach (Section 1619 (a) and (b) of the Social Security Act

Harry advised that both the immediate and long-term, focus, priority is the development and operationalization of the buy-in program. 1619 Outreach will be limited to the distribution of the brochures that are in the office, upon request. There are approximately 2000 English and 2500 Spanish brochures currently available.

c. “Ticket Team” Consumer Handbook Update

The estimate was received for the Ticket Team Handbook from the State Printing Office. We requested printing, 15,000 ticket handbooks, (1/6th of what was budgeted) and should receive them in the next 2-3 weeks. When the inventory gets below 3,000, we will order the next 15,000. An email will be sent to all Advisory Group members when the handbooks are available for distribution.

The topic of getting the Ticket to Work handbook on the Website came up. This will be looked into. Alyce felt that she would like to link her consumers to it.

e. Workplace Personal Assistance Brochure

The Advisory Group was advised that APSHA had been contacted and they had shipped us what they had in stock (280) of this brochure. They will send us more when they have been reprinted.

VI. Old Business

a. Promotional Materials

Alyce indicated that she had mentioned trying to find the promotional materials and items to Mary Jackson when she had run into her. Mary indicated through Alyce a willingness to help us locate items just call her.

b. First Annual Consumers Conference

Alyce reported on the First Annual Consumers Conference. Red Foster and Bob Simola have agreed to sit on the committee. The next meeting will be in two weeks. This conference combines all the departments i.e.: Mental Health, Children's Mental Health, NAMI, and Federation of Families with Children's Mental Health NDLC has also been invited, and has the information, discussions etc. all held under one roof for the ease of the consumer. It will be held the 1st weekend in May. May is National Mental Health Month. The Leadership Academy is Wednesday and Thursday, the 6th, 7th, and 8th of May. Harry has committed to doing a whole session on HIWA. This will be held in Reno at the Holiday Inn Downtown. Lisa Erquiaga made the motion to send Red and Bob to represent the Advisory Group on the committee organizing the First Annual Consumers Conference, and for Harry to do a workshop on HIWA. It was seconded by Nina Davenport and carried.

The Advisory Group discussed Alyce's request that HIWA have a table at the conference.

V. New Business

a. Meeting Dates and Locations

Discussion of meeting dates and locations ended as follows: September- Las Vegas, October-Minden, November-Las Vegas and December off. The meetings are set until after November. The topic of meeting location will be brought up again at the November meeting so that meeting locations can be set for the New Year.

VI. Group Report

a. Status of New Advisory Group Members

Harry advised the Advisory Group that he had attempted to contact all four candidates and received response from two of them. They have been interviewed and their references have been checked. Connie has been made aware of their qualifications. The two new members chosen for the Advisory Group are Anthony Amos and Jesse Harris both are from Las Vegas

Anthony Amos is an individual who works part-time as a substitute teacher. Jesse Harris has received the Jefferson Award, a community service award given once a year to one individual. She is extremely active in paratransit issues.

Alyce and Robin volunteered to mentor the new members. They will be provided with a years worth of Advisory Group minutes and the mentors will work with them on reviewing this information. Robin is to mentor Anthony Amos and Alyce is to mentor Jesse Harris.

b. Bob Simola-Fourth Annual Service Coordination Conference

Bob reported that he felt that this conference was the best they had and that a lot of good information went out. All the brochures were given out as well as the supplies in Alyce's office. The only thing that did not go completely was the pens. He felt there were a lot of good classes, with good information, for individuals to take at the conference.

In addition, Nina Davenport, brought up the question of attendance the First Lady's Conference on Women's Health Issues in November. Alyce responded that she would be attending. Bill stated that his office is attending. The conference will be held in Las Vegas on the fifth, sixth and seventh of November. Nina wished to know if we wanted to do anything about HIWA as she will be manning a table for MS and would be willing to put out whatever materials we wish for the HIWA program.

VII. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The Meeting was adjourned at 1:30

